

## Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine

# Notable Veterinarians of 2014, Part 2

By Dr. Donald F. Smith  
December 16, 2014

This is the second of a two-part tribute to some of the notable mid-career veterinarians who have had a positive impact on the world of animal and human health in 2014.<sup>1</sup>

**Beth Sabin:** Dr. Sabin is one of the most influential and visible members of the senior management team in the Schaumburg office. A respected scientist with a PhD in immunology following her DVM from the University of California, Davis, Beth has been with the AVMA for over 15 years. Starting as an Assistant Editor for JAVMA and AJVR, she moved quickly to Assistant Director of the Education Division with primary responsibility for the Council on Research, the Educational Commission on Foreign Veterinary Graduates, and the American Board of Veterinary Specialties. Dr. Sabin also provided critical support to the Council on Education. She was instrumental in conceiving and establishing the AVMA Committee on International Veterinary Affairs, for which she continues to provide outstanding support, in addition to leading AVMA's diversity initiatives as Associate Director in the Office of the Executive Vice President. Dr. Sabin's presence is also felt as a member of the Board of the Women's Veterinary Leadership Development Initiative.<sup>2</sup>



*Dr. Beth Sabin with Sammy and Rue*  
(Photo by Scott Nolen, AVMA)

**Lila Miller:** Vice President of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and considered to be the founder of the field of shelter medicine, Dr. Miller, the second woman and the first African American to graduate from Cornell's veterinary college (in 1977),<sup>3</sup> was honored

by her *alma mater* with the 2014 Daniel Elmer Salmon Award. She is the second woman and the first African American to receive this distinction, which is the most prestigious peer-selected award to a graduate of the college.



*Dr. Lila Miller*

(Photo provided by College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University)

In addition to the Salmon award, she received this year the distinguished service award from the Association of Shelter Veterinarians and was elected to the National Academies of Practice. Dr. Miller was a board member of the New York State Board for Veterinary Medicine, American Association of Veterinary State Boards, National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and the National Board of Medical Examiners. She is also the recipient of the distinguished service award from the New York City Veterinary Medical Association and animal welfare awards from both the AVMA and the American Animal Hospital Association. Educator, author, animal advocate and co-founder of the over 700-member Association of Shelter Veterinarians, Dr. Miller is internationally recognized for her advocacy of animal welfare.

**René Carlson:** Former president of the AVMA (2011-12), Dr. René Carlson was elected in September to a three-year term as president of the World Veterinary Association (WVA). She is the first woman to hold this post for the organization that represents over 500,000 veterinarians across six continents. Dr. Carlson attributes her previous position as the AVMA's Director for International Affairs (a position she still holds) as providing background and facilitating her election as WVA president.



*Dr. René Carlson*  
(Photo provided by Dr. Carlson)

The WVA promotes animal health and welfare, and is committed to advancing the concept of One Health to assure improved health and welfare for humans, animals, and the environment. Recognized as the voice of veterinary medicine internationally, the WVA works in association with the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Dr. Carlson began her career as a small animal practitioner, where she built and owned an award-winning veterinary practice in northwestern Wisconsin.



*Dr. Rena Carlson-Lammers*  
(Photo provided by Dr. Carlson)

**Rena Carlson-Lammers:** Not to be confused with the above veterinarian, Dr. Rena Carlson (WSU '89) was elected as the AVMA's District XI Board of Directors Representative in 2014.

Co-owner of a six-doctor mixed animal practice in Idaho, Dr. Carlson also works on the family cattle ranch. She bridges private clinical practice with academia in her role as attending veterinarian for the animal care facility at Idaho State University where she has collaborated in multiple animal projects as well as leading the university's efforts to maintain institutional accreditation for Laboratory Animal Care. As one of only two women currently serving as voting members of the AVMA's Executive Board, Dr. Carlson is also committed to helping shape the future of women's leadership in the profession.



*Dr. Valerie Ragan*  
(Photo provided by Dr. Ragan, 2014)

**Valerie Ragan:** who has led the Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine at Virginia-Maryland's Regional College of Veterinary Medicine since 2006, recently relocated from the college's Maryland campus, to the central university campus in Blacksburg, Virginia. The relocation will streamline and facilitate her interaction with students interested in public policy and international organizations, including those enrolled in the MPH program. Having her on the main campus will also facilitate her involvement as a member of the dean's executive team.

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<sup>1</sup> Smith, Donald F. Notable Veterinarians of 2014, Part 1. *Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine*. December 11, 2014.

<sup>2</sup> The author acknowledges the assistance of AVMA's Dr. David Granstrom (Associate Executive VP and COO) for preparation of this tribute to Dr. Sabin.

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Miller was one of two African American women who received their DVM from Cornell in 1977.

KEYWORDS:

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Lila Miller  
René Carlson  
Valerie Ragan  
Beth Sabin  
Elizabeth Sabin  
Rena Carlson-Lammers  
Women in Veterinary Medicine  
AVMA  
American Veterinary Medicine Association  
American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
Center for Public and Corporate Veterinary Medicine  
Virginia-Maryland's Regional College of Veterinary Medicine  
African-American Veterinarians

TOPIC:

Notable veterinarians

LEADING QUESTION:

What US veterinarian was recently elected as president of the World Veterinary Association?

META-SUMMARY:

The author lauds some of the most notable mid-career veterinarians from 2014.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Dr. Donald F. Smith, Dean Emeritus of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, had a passion for the value of the history of veterinary medicine as a gateway for understanding the present and the future of the profession.

Throughout his many professional roles from professor of surgery, to Department Chair of Clinical Sciences, Associate Dean of Education and of Academic Programs and Dean, he spearheaded changes in curriculum, clinical services, diagnostic services and more. He was a diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and a member of the National Academy of Practices. Most recently he played a major role in increasing the role of women in veterinary leadership.

*Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine* is one of his projects where he was able to share his vast knowledge of the profession.